In the Claims

1-41 (cancelled).

42 (previously presented). A method for inhibiting the expression of Dengue virus genes within a human host suffering from Dengue virus infection, said method comprising intravenously administering to the host an effective amount of a vector comprising at least one gene suppressing cassette, wherein said gene suppressing cassette comprises a polynucleotide operably-linked to a promoter sequence, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule that reduces expression of a target Dengue virus gene within the host by RNA interference, and wherein the polynucleotide sequence is transcribed to produce the siRNA molecule.

43-51 (cancelled).

52 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein said vector comprises a plurality of gene suppressing cassettes.

53 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein said target gene encodes a structural protein.

54 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein said target gene encodes a non-structural protein.

55 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein said target gene is at least one gene encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of C, prM, E, NS1, NS2a, NS3, NS4a, NS4b, and NS5.

56 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

57 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is conjugated with chitosan or a chitosan derivative.

58 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein said target gene comprises a target sequence, and the target sequence is from 15 to 30 nucleotides in length.

59 (currently amended). The method of claim 42, wherein said target gene comprises a target sequence, and the target sequence is common to ~~2, 3, or~~ 4 serotypes of Dengue virus.

60 (cancelled).

61 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the promoter sequence is an inducible promoter sequence.

62 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the promoter sequence is a tissue-specific promoter sequence.

63 (cancelled).

64 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is a non-viral vector.

65 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is a viral vector.

66 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is a viral vector selected from the group consisting of adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, poliovirus, lentivirus, herpes simplex virus, and murine Maloney-based virus.

67 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the vector is an adeno-associated virus.

68 (cancelled).

69 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein the siRNA molecule reduces Dengue virus-induced apoptosis of dendritic cells in the host.

70 (previously presented). The method of claim 69, wherein the vector is an adeno-associated virus, and the vector does not induce acute inflammation in the dendritic cells.

71 (previously presented). The method of claim 42, wherein said target gene comprises a target sequence within the 3' untranslated region (UTR) common to all four DV serotypes.

72 (previously presented). A method for inhibiting Dengue virus (DV) infection and DV-induced apoptosis of human dendritic cells, comprising administering to the cells an effective amount of a vector comprising at least one gene suppressing cassette, wherein said gene suppressing cassette comprises a polynucleotide operably-linked to a promoter sequence, wherein said polynucleotide encodes a short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule that reduces expression of a target Dengue virus gene within the host by RNA interference, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is transcribed to produce the siRNA molecule.

73 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein the cells are subsequently exposed to DV, and the siRNA molecule inhibits DV infection and DV-induced apoptosis in the cells.

74 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein the the vector is an adeno-associated virus, and the vector does not induce acute inflammation in the dendritic cells.

75 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein the cells are human dendritic cells of the blood.

76 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein said administering is carried out *in vivo*.

77 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein said target gene comprises a target sequence within the 3' untranslated region (UTR) common to all four DV serotypes.

78 (previously presented). The method of claim 72, wherein said polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

79 (new). The method of claim 72, wherein the vector is an adeno-associated virus.

80 (new). The method of claim 42, wherein the siRNA molecule has a hairpin structure.

81 (new). The method of claim 72, wherin the siRNA molecule has a hairpin structure.